AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) receiving a phone address entered by a caller;

b) determining <u>an</u> ~~the~~ entry modality<u>, from a plurality of entry modalities,</u> used by said caller to enter the received phone address;

c) decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry modality;

d) consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

e) connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said ~~step of~~ consulting the reference table.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the decoded phone address <u>comprises</u> ~~is~~ an ambiguous phone address.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2<u>,</u> wherein said ~~step of~~ consulting the reference table further includes<u>:</u>

consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity resolving parameter, and

wherein said ~~step of~~ connecting the caller is <u>only performed when a</u> ~~not performed if no~~ telephone number results from said ~~step of~~ consulting.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said reference table comprises ~~is~~ a

lookup table.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said reference table comprises ~~is~~ a

database.

6-11.   (Canceled).

12.   (Currently amended) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:

a memory including ~~having~~ program code stored therein; and

a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in accordance with

stored program code;

wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to:

~~perform the steps of:~~

receive ~~a) receiving~~ from a caller an ambiguous phone address;

select an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving

parameters;

collect ~~b) collecting the~~ additional information specified by said selected ~~an~~

ambiguity resolving parameter; and

determine, ~~c) determining,~~ using said additional information, whether said phone

address resolves to a telephone number.

13-31. (Canceled).

32.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modalities comprises a voice entry modality.

33.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modalities comprises a keypad entry modality.

34.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modalities comprises a telephone keypad entry modality.

35.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modalities comprises an alphanumeric keyboard entry modality.

36.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modalities comprises a handwriting entry modality.

37.   (New) A method for determining a telephone number, comprising:

receiving an ambiguous phone address from a caller;

selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;

collecting additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

determining, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a

telephone number.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a phone number of said caller.

39.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a location of said caller.

40.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a predetermined radius of a location of said caller.

41.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises at least one of a latitudinal and a longitudinal coordinate.

42.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a voiceprint of said caller.

43.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a voice sample of said caller.

44.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters

comprises a predetermined phrase that is audibly input by said caller.

45.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a predetermined sequence of sounds.

46.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter comprises automatically selecting a predetermined ambiguity resolving parameter from said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters when a predetermined phone address is received.

47.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to a data base.

48.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to a look-up table.

49.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to voice sample data base.

50.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the caller's present location.

51.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the telephone number the call is being placed from.

52.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the identity

of the caller.

53.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the caller's

response to at least one query.

54.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address comprises a

. phone address that maps to more than one telephone number.

55.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address comprises a

phone address that maps to one telephone number, and

       wherein said one telephone number is restricted to at least one ambiguity resolving

parameter from said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters.

56.   (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising connecting said caller to the telephone

number to which said phone address resolves.

57.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a single

telephone number.

58.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein, when said phone address resolves to a telephone

number, the method further comprises connecting the caller to the telephone number that results

from said determining.

59.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein, when said phone address does not resolve to a

telephone number, the method further comprises notifying said caller of an error.

60.   (New) The method of claim 59, wherein said notifying comprises any of an audio output,

and a video output.

61.   (New) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

        determining an entry modality, from a plurality of entry modalities, used by a caller to

enter a received phone address;

        decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry modality;

        consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being

periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

        wherein, when said received phone address comprises an ambiguous phone address, said

method further comprises:

                selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity

resolving parameters;

                collecting additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving

parameter; and

                determining, using said additional information, whether said phone address

resolves to a telephone number.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising connecting the caller to the telephone number when said phone address resolves to a telephone number.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said consulting the reference table when said received phone address comprises a non-ambiguous phone address.

64. (New) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

a determiner that determines entry modality, from a plurality of entry modalities, used by a caller to enter a received phone address;

a decoder that decodes said received phone address according to the determined entry modality;

a consulter that consults a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

a connector that connects the caller to the telephone number that results from said consulting the reference table.

65. (New) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:

a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;

a collector that collects additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

a determiner that determines, using said additional information, whether an ambiguous

phone address from a caller resolves to a telephone number.

66.   (New) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

a determiner that determines an entry modality, from a plurality of entry modalities, used

by said caller to enter the received phone address;

a decoder that decodes a received phone address from a caller according to the

determined entry modality;

a consulter that consults a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference

table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table;

a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity

resolving parameters when said received phone address comprises an ambiguous phone address;

a collector that collects additional information specified by said selected ambiguity

resolving parameter; and

a determiner that determines, using said additional information, whether said phone

address resolves to a telephone number.

67.   (New) The system of claim 66, integrated into one of a central office, a central controller,

and a unit which interfaces between a telephone subscriber's telephone units and the subscriber's

connections to a telephone network.